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THIS CITY CAN LEAD THE WAY

PHILADELPHIA, which has not always been notable for vision and foresight in its administration, may yet show the rest of the country how the shadow of "hard times" can be dispelled. Councils when they meet next Thursday will receive a report from the City Controller compiled to show that we have generally available almost \$150,000,000 for operation and improvements. Naturally, there will be an effort to get plenty of work under way at the earliest possible moment.

There is more work to be done in the United States now than there was before the war started. The natural development in every community and the requirements of building will represent a greater need than the war industries did. Freak legislation and panicky talk will not relieve such unemployment as is being reported in some parts of the country.

When communities and individuals learn to hurry, to cut red tape and to get all their belated enterprises in going shape, surplus labor will be automatically absorbed. We here are a little more fortunate than other American communities, and it is to be hoped that Councils will make the most of the advantage.

AFTER-WAR IMMIGRATION

IT HAS always been supposed that the end of the war would bring a sudden flood of immigration from Europe. Current reports of various steamship companies that they have more than 100,000 foreign-born residents on their waiting lists for passage abroad put a different color on the matter, for the present at least.

Nearly every new citizen of the United States has had friends in the war or near the battlelines. And most of them have been employed at good wages and are well prepared to travel.

Europe has had a vast lot of advertising. The work of millions of men will be required in France and Belgium to restore the damage done by the Germans. On the whole, it appears that the great tide of immigration to the United States may be looked for not in the immediate future, but in the course of a year or two years after economic balances have begun to settle.

The eager desire of many former immigrants to get back to their native places and the demand for labor in Europe make it appear that plans now under consideration to shut out all immigration are a bit panicky and extreme.

OUR TROOPS IN RUSSIA

IN THE end, when the final denouement comes in Russia, we probably shall learn that the present uncomfortable plight of our own and Allied troops in that troubled land was due to a last mistake of that old-fashioned diplomacy which didn't cease to function and blunder until the Peace Conference was well under way.

Newspaper readers will remember that the expeditions were launched amid grave doubts. British, French and Japanese diplomatists were fervently in favor of it. President Wilson and his advisers consistently opposed the move and reluctantly participated at the last. The accumulated evidence in the case makes it appear that for once in his dealings with Europe Mr. Wilson was outwitted. The expeditions were arranged and equipped and the President appears to have permitted American forces to be included only to preserve the outward signs of general unity.

The Allied and American soldiers are menaced by superior forces and they are compelled to retire at regular intervals in defensive fighting. If even a partial recognition of the Bolsheviki is the price which civilization has to pay for one of the culminating blunders of its diplomatists, then we have another reason for desiring a new school of statesmanship.

THE SOLDIER'S RELIGION

MANY clergymen, representing many denominations, went abroad with the American soldiers. Those now returning are issuing appeals and warnings to the churchmen who stayed at home.

"They went as youths," says one minister in telling of the attitude of mind he found among our men in the field, "but they will return like the Day of Judgment!"

In almost every review these chaplains tell of the need for a better and more direct human approach by the churches and of the impatience of the man of soldier type with the formalities and social abstractions which block his way in the search for true religious contacts. Dr. Bernard I. Bell, chaplain at the Great Lakes Training School, told an audience of ministers at the Church House that the war showed a change among the sailors for greater reality and spirituality in religion.

Chaplains who served abroad were amazed, they say, to find that the soldier looked at the church not with reverence, but with tolerant patience. They fear that the moral influence of the church may wane and that accepted forms and formulae may have little appeal for these men when they get home.

The moral of all this is, of course, that there never was so great a need as there is today for a return to the simple, unanswerable principles which are at the basis of Christianity and that the church is in greater need than ever of devoted and inspired men.

SECURE PEACE MUST REFLECT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE!

Recognition of Rights of War-Weary Millions Imperatively Incumbent on Paris Delegates

NO ITERATION of the fervent collective hope of mankind can be excessive. No repetition of the world's passionate desire to put an end to cynical pact trafficking can be vain.

When President Wilson told the French Chamber of Deputies that the rulers of the world had been "thinking of international dealings when what they ought to have been thinking of was the fortunes of the men and women and the safety of the home and the care that they should take that their people should be happy because they were safe," he was echoing the spirit of many of his previous utterances.

This driving insistence on the same theme constitutes the true element of grandeur in his endeavors to secure a just peace. The concept cannot be dropped without the prospect of appalling peril akin to that which millions pledged their lives, fortunes and honor to crush.

Lovers of freedom everywhere demand the application of that solvent to the monstrous war evil. They rejoice when any of their spokesmen urge it. No word on the subject can be superfluous. Repetition makes for strength, for there are still reactionaries loath to yield save under the most persistent pressure.

It is a most heartening fact therefore that the President displays the utmost zeal to repeat himself. He has hammered away at the same thought in Milan and Manchester and London. He led the nation into war with the same affirmations on his lips. **They are not original, for they have been the inspiration of all crusaders for liberty since men first caught a fleeting glimpse of the star-eyed goddess.**

Their essential spirit stirred Thomas Jefferson when he penned the "Declaration" in the house at Seventh and Market streets, and Lincoln when he penciled the Gettysburg address on the way to the battlefield.

Fate, personal shortcomings, countless influences, subtle and direct, bestrew the path of any statesman with errors. On many subjects Mr. Wilson has provoked a mixed chorus of praise and blame, but his championship of one specific policy—the most important which the collective world simultaneously ever considered—is utterly unsullied by inconsistency.

His address to the Deputies pays deserved and felicitous compliments to French valor and French civilization, duly emphasizing the links which bind "the world's frontier of freedom" to the bulwark of that same ideal in the New World.

But throughout all the stately sentences there is evident the persistent intention to turn away from the governmental aspects of reconstruction to the structure of all nationalities—**the people themselves.**

"As we sit from day to day at the Quai d'Orsay," confessed the President, "I think to myself we might, if we could gain an audience of the free peoples of the world, adapt the language of General Pershing and say: 'Friends, men, humble women, little children, we are here. We are here as your champions, your friends, as your representatives.'"

Statesmen did not talk this way in Vienna in 1814, nor in Berlin in 1878. Then, as now, the real issue—recognition of the people's rights—though complicated in the adjustment of details, was in principle exceedingly simple. Anything so plain, however, was deliberately ignored in favor of the web of dynastic or selfishly nationalistic fantasies woven by diplomatists.

Forces operating in the same direction are observable in Paris, but as the conference progresses there is an auspicious and perceptible relaxation of their energy. Other leaders besides Mr. Wilson, though perhaps not invariably with the same enthusiasm, are "hearing voices."

Georges Clemenceau stopped his ears when he prated of the "balance of power," but that indorsement of a discredited and iniquitous system has not been repeated.

French men and women as well as American constitute a huge psychic power.

The British populace is more and more assertive of its desire that its commissioners in Paris **serve as representatives of a great constituency of plain people, sick of wars and their adventitious causes and not merely in the capacity of crafty, aggressive bargainers.**

It is no mere phrase spinning to say that **there is terrific compulsion in the popular voice today.** The record of the campaign of propaganda—in this instance one of truth and justice—conducted by Mr. Creel's bureau in neutral countries during the war is evidence of the tremendous potency of public opinion. No particular attempt was made to convert government officials to the principles for which civilization was fighting. Logical arguments were presented to ordinary citizens, so-called "plain people." The new convictions which they registered were of immense advantage to the cause of justice. **Governments could not afford to repudiate the popular judgment.**

All officialdom is in a similar situation today. **The cost of ignoring the public desire for a peace of right, untainted as much as is humanly possible by the high-handed selfishness which breeds wars, is of unthinkable magnitude.**

Mr. Wilson knows this full well. He would be wise in his espousal of the people's cause even as a politician. As a sincere zealot there is a double force in his attitude. His admitted satisfaction in being a mouthpiece, untiring in his reiteration of the aspirations of mankind, gives vividness to the role he is enacting.

If darkened chancelleries fail to be illumined thereby, they will assuredly pay the penalty in the end, not because Mr. Wilson as an individual has confuted them, but because of the passionate determination of the vast constituency he represents. **Unless the peace terms are a hideous mockery, the world public will be assertive in them. No reconstruction fabric formed in any other way can endure.**

THE WILSON-GOMPERS MYSTERY

ANY ONE who wishes to understand how swiftly the world is moving onward—to a place or a state not yet defined by man—has but to train binoculars upon Paris and the widening breach between President Wilson and Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor.

There is to be a great congress of labor at Berne. Since it has been called to discuss future universal aspects of labor, it will be attended by representatives of German trades unions. The French and the British have named delegates who are already on their way.

But Mr. Gompers will have none of the Berne conference so long as the Hun is admitted. He will discuss nothing with the German trade unionists. He has a moral reluctance to do this, though representatives of the military and civil governments of the Allies and America consult with Germans almost every day. The consequence is that America may not be represented at a conference which is to help in formulating a code of labor ethics which later will be submitted to the Peace Congress for its approval and sanction.

Mr. Wilson is said to be profoundly irritated at this attitude of the American federation head. Mr. Gompers used to be considered a radical. Is he moving backward or does the world move forward too quickly for him? He is no innocent in matters of politics and diplomacy. He is said to have angered French and British labor and even many of the Allied statesmen.

Here, indeed, is a mystery to which Sherlock Holmes might devote his talents if he were in Paris at this hour.

Two Whys by One Less Wise

If American troops are to be withdrawn from the Archangel front why were they ever sent there? If they will have to return there eventually why not send them reenforcements?

Bernstorff's other name is Gall.

The walkout of London subway employes meant a walkout for others besides themselves.

Swiss Socialists have decided to observe strict neutrality during the Berne Peace Conference.

Philadelphia to Portland, Ore.: "Don't mention it, old top. It was a pleasure to welcome 'em!"

It would simplify the work of the Police Department if criminals would insist upon an eight-hour day.

The Crown Prince of Germany is suing his wife for divorce. Poor lady, luck's coming her way at last.

Members of the Peace Conference appear willing to give a fair hearing to anything suggested. Why pan the panacea?

A Bolshevist discord is mighty hard on the nerves of a Peace Conference trying to compose a World Song of Harmony.

A local gas-mask plant has closed. The management must have become convinced that there will be no extra session.

"Bill pickling" is over, says Representative Scott. Naturally, nothing will be "pickled" with the "dry" sentiment prevailing.

"These guys must think me silly," murmurs Manuel with a frown. "Better a topper in Piccadilly than a crown in Lisbon town."

And the harder the income tax can legitimately hit us the greater the cause for rejoicing. And that isn't all pure patriotism, either.

By the time tobacco smokers have become a real source of revenue to the government somebody will start a campaign to prohibit smoking.

The P. R. T. "Know the Truth" campaign is justifying itself by bringing results. The company has decided to discontinue many of the skip-stops.

The critic has, of course, one advantage over a member of the Peace Conference: When he changes his mind it isn't vacillation, it is simply mental progress.

After enough cargoes have been suggested for the good ship League of Nations to fill the holds of a fleet, there is danger that she will be launched at last with barely enough aboard to give her an even keel.

Since the Bolshevists have swapped the gas that wearies for the gas that kills it may be that the military Powers will be permitted to take them more seriously. There is growing belief that the only way to remove Bolshevism from the system is with a bayonet.

CONGRESSMAN MOORE'S LETTER

Republican Leaders Under Pressure to Achieve Harmony in New Congress—Army Mail Delays

Washington, D. C., Feb. 5.

DEMOCRATS have been making many mistakes, and if the news ever gets beyond the Congressional Record the Administration will have a good many things to account for when the Republicans return to the control of Congress. But the Republicans, while they realize that there will be a party advantage after March 4 next, and especially if the President calls an extra session, are showing many of the symptoms of disorganization which they are generally prone to attribute to their opponents. The fight over the speakership of the House and the control of the Senate Finance Committee are not conducive to that "cohesiveness" which is advocated by men like David H. Lane, of Philadelphia, and which is generally recognized as helpful to party success. It is evident that Pinchot, of Milford, who recently punched Penrose in an open letter, has given the country beyond Pennsylvania an opportunity to make trouble for the Pennsylvania leader if it desires to do so. Penrose treats the matter slightingly and will probably win out in the end, although he is unquestionably a topic of political discussion. The national chairman, Will H. Hays, has figured in much of the speakership and Senate finance committeeship talk. Whether he is wise to interfere is an open question, but his visits to Washington have been frequent and it is said he has given encouragement to the fight on the House leadership of Representative Mann. It is also apparent that men like Longworth and Fess, of Ohio, are more inclined to go into the Gillett camp than to support Mann. The fights in the Senate and House are becoming interwoven to such an extent as to lead to the belief that some very clever diplomacy will be necessary and a good many ambitious booms will have to be suppressed if united action in the next Congress is to be secured.

* * *

THERE was a touch of old Diamond street to Washington the other night when Harry Somers, Jr., and James Barclay Young, of the consular service, struck out for the K street residence of James Rankin Young. It is not so very many years ago that Jim Young represented the Fourth District in Congress and Harry Somers, Sr., was recognized by Mayor Warwick as the leader of the Thirty-second Ward. They both lived on Diamond street, where the young folk were thrown together. Somers, Jr., has developed into a rattling good business man and Barclay Young has attained a fine record for foreign service.

* * *

AN ACCOUNT of a daring "hold-up" of the Long Beach and Manahawkin train way back when "The Bungalow" of Colonel William Henry Sayen, of St. Davids, was young, has just reached Washington through the medium of Brother James Mercer Davis's Burlington Gazette, founded in 1835. And the story has greatly interested Edgar C. Snyder, the Washington correspondent of the Omaha Bee, who was on the train at the time the Barnegat Pirates entered it and "went through" the owner of the Bungalow and several of his guests, including the late Admiral Melville, who was tipped off in time to submit tamely. Snyder says he always did suspect that the train was stopped by the late Frank Fenimore, the manager of the road, disguised as Barguius, the pirate chief, and that Martin Rommel and E. F. Dixey, the old-time minstrel, were in the plot. Eddie further observes that Brother Davis could probably get to the bottom of this mysterious but almost forgotten incident in the history of Harvey Cedars by calling up Edward D. Stokes, of Mount Holly and the Peahala Club.

* * *

THE relations existing between the late Congressman Robbins, of Greensburg, and Congressman Vare, of Philadelphia, were not especially close. Robbins was a lawyer with a military record, who had taken a deep interest—almost a student's interest—in the House proceedings. He was of a very serious turn of mind. Strange enough, however, one of his last acts on the floor was to ask permission to extend his remarks in order to insert a speech made in Philadelphia by Congressman Vare. It was an accommodation—one of those courtesies which one member sometimes extends to another to save the embarrassment of asking to have something done for oneself. A great deal of notoriety followed the publication of the speech, but Robbins, being taken suddenly ill, probably never knew of it. When Joe Rodgers, one of the Republican clerks of the House, was lining up the members to attend the Robbins funeral Vare stepped forward to be included. He said it was due to the memory of his colleague that he should put in an appearance at the obsequies.

* * *

E. CLINTON RHOADS, a member of the Philadelphia bar who often figures in public movements, had a son-in-law, Frederic B. Prichett, who became a lieutenant of the 109th Field Artillery, was wounded in action in France and died of his wounds September 6, 1918. His story is one that hundreds, even thousands, of good American citizens are now telling with regard to their own experience. It is one of inability to get satisfaction from the War Risk Bureau concerning the obligations of the government to the soldier. It is not altogether an idle suggestion, but the irritation which American families are suffering due to lost mail, inability of soldiers abroad to hear from their relatives at home and failure to pay allotments is doing much to encourage a spirit of unrest in this country. And this spirit is not confined altogether to those who are poorly endowed with this world's goods. The departments tell us, however, they are doing the best they can under the heavy pressure of this war business.

Because of an occasional fathead among a body of brave and efficient workers the Y. M. C. A. is forced to keep on proving that it did its work at the front exactly as it should have been done.

"ME TURN DOWN A CHANCE TO GET A SQUARE MEAL?"

THE CHAFFING DISH

WE USED to depend on the bock beer signs to tell us when spring was here. Is it possible that from now on we shall have nothing to go by but the calendar?

Somewhere in February

"Some time in February," says Stewart Edward White in one of his delightful books, "when the snow and sleet have shut out from the wearied mind the memory of spring, the man of the woods generally receives his first inspiration. He may catch it from some companion's chance remark, a glance at the map, a vague recollection of a dim-past conversation, or it may flash on him from the mere pronunciation of a name."

Spring this year won't mean what it generally does—we have had too much of it—and yet the old thrill will be there just the same. It generally comes at night. Some evening, toward, the latter part of this month, you will be on your way home from the office. There will have been a spell of sharp weather, followed by a thaw. If you are a suburbanite you will be on your way up the hill. Under frozen lids of ice you will hear a soft tinkling of gutter water as it sluices downward. And then you will sniff the unmistakable smell: a sort of pungent metallic flavor in the air, steeped in an earthy exhalation from the sodden fermenting ground. At that moment you will know that the planet has heeled her vast shoulder over toward the sun; that the great envelope of soil and air and sea and forest that cloaks the spinning ball is electric with new stir; you will go home and begin to monkey with the fishing rod.

"Mr. Wilson's French is good enough to enable him to explain where he wants to go," cables a correspondent, describing the President's meetings with Parisian children, who are always eager to greet him.

It seems sad that Mr. Wilson should have to come home just when he has attained such command of the language.

Compromise

My wife fair-mindedly discusses with me all our differences of opinion, so that we may without any bitterness reach the compromise of doing what she originally suggested.—James Branch Cabell.

Another Legend Pops

Brigadier General Catlin, of the marines, says: "Some one has reported that the marines advanced on Belleau Woods crying, 'Remember the Lusitania!' If they did so I failed to hear it. Somehow that doesn't sound like the sort of thing the marine says under the conditions."

Legends explode so rapidly these days we shall never be surprised to hear that what Pershing actually said was, "Attaboy, Lafayette; look who's here!"

The New York drolls, according to a caller from that city, are saying that Tumulty cabled to W. W. the other day, "Come right back; they're threatening to start a republic."

Another wag says: "Cheer up! The thirst is yet to come."

Speaking of which, some aver that the new constitutional amendment is unconstitutional. Of course it is. It wouldn't be an amendment if it weren't.

When the Kaiser passes out the whole world will say, "So long!" And it will mean it literally.

Gratitude

M. Klotz, when elected president of one of the Peace Conference committees, made a speech of thirteen words—the briefest yet uttered at the Quai d'Orsay.—News item.

Brevity is the soul of Klotz:
Omitting all the "May I nots"
He said his say in thirteen *mots*.
Reporting the Peace Conference
Is costing us something immense.
High is the price of cabled speech;
With words eleven cents per each,
And wireless stuff at twenty cents,
We like these terse laconic gents.
So next to House, who costs us nix,
Klotz is the man our fancy picks:
Accept, sir, this assurance crude
Of this newspaper's gratitude!

The City Hall is rather proud of its new underpinning. Perhaps it is time The Chaffing Dish overhauled its underpunning.

Social Notes

Mr. Philip Warner, the well-known bookseller, has a new edition in his family—a boy.

* *

Liberty, the fifth of the well-known Loan family, will be in our midst shortly.

* *

Wharton Stork, the well-known editor of "Contemporary Verse," has been up in the Adirondacks waiting for the rush of poems to slacken off. Wharton says that if so much poetry continues to be written his magazine will have little excuse for existence.

* *

Alfred, the well-known Noyes, and Miss Amy Lowell, the well-known poet, will visit this town next Monday.

* *

Mrs. Breshkovskaya, or thereabouts, the grandmother of the not so well-known Russian revolution, will be here soon to explain how her grandchild has changed since she knew it.

* *

Sam Scoville, the well-known barrister, has written another book.

* *

Woodrow Wilson, the well-known peacemaker, is said to have been photographed with his left trouser cuff turned up. The Senate's fears that something would go wrong are at last justified.

The race is not always to the swift nor the battle to the strong, but as another New York droll observes, the betting is best that way. SOCRATES.

Victor Hugo's Prophecy

[Written in 1860.]

Then France will suddenly arouse herself. She will become formidable. She will regain Alsace and Lorraine. Is it enough? No! No! She will capture—listen—Treves, Mainz, Cologne, Coblenz. And you shall hear France cry: "The clock strikes my hour! Germany, hear me! Am I thine enemy? No, I am thy sister! I have taken all from thee, I return all to thee upon one condition—that we shall no longer be a divided people; that we shall be one united family, one republic. I will demolish my fortresses, thou thine—my vendetta is brotherhood. No more frontier. The Rhine, mine and thine. * * *

We shall be the liberty of Europe. And now let us clasp hands, for we have rendered each a reciprocated service. Thou hast freed me from my emperor. I will free thee from thine! * * *

One of the troubles the world faces is the tendency to consider the Peace Conference a Panacea Factory.

Trencherman on the Hireling Line

"Kamerad!" the cringing German cried
With soundless lips and eyes flat on the floor;
And so, as I'd lunched passing well inside,
I gave him the quarter he groveled for.
STANLEY K. WILSON.

And Dreams Sometimes Come True

Signor Crespi, head of the Italian delegation to the Peace Conference, has suggested a universal tax, the proceeds of which, with moneys received as indemnities from Germany, will go into a common fund to defray interest on the debts of the Allies and eventually cancel them. Charles J. Doherty, Canadian Minister of Justice, urges the Peace Conference to establish an international people's house of representatives—a World Parliament. Both suggestions may easily be tacked on to a league of nations. Well-wishers have already provided the league with an army, navy and courts, so a legislative body and a tax-levying power are logically the next steps. With a ponderable league of nations established at Constantinople, its capital city, and backed by an international police force on land and sea the countries of unrest in its immediate vicinity might cease from troubling. Out of the dreams of men today the Superstate of Tomorrow may be born.

There may be a little sardonic humor in the suggestion of the Peace Conference that America should make itself responsible for Armenia. "You started this thing, Uncle Sam," the conferees say in effect, "now prove that you are in earnest."

The strength of a league of nations will lie not as much in the fact that the majority members are pledged to spank recalcitrants and force the maintenance of peace, as in the fact that subscribing members are now avowing their belief that it is possible to get justice in the world without having to fight for it.

What Do You Know?

QUIZ

1. Who is president of the commission on the responsibility for the war and its conduct?
2. Where is the White Sea?
3. What was the first transcontinental railroad in the United States?
4. How should the word "bourgeois" be pronounced?
5. What is an otter?
6. According to the Julian calendar formerly in use in America, what was the date of Washington's birth?
7. Name two novels by Oliver Wendell Holmes?
8. What is the meaning and origin of the word "gerrymander"?
9. Which is the "Gopher State"?
10. What is a megrim?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

1. A woodchuck is the North American marmot, also popularly called groundhog.
2. Edward D. White, of Louisiana, is Chief Justice of the United States.
3. George Frederick Watts was a noted English painter of the nineteenth century.
4. Oscar Wilde was a native of Dublin, Ireland.
5. A hierophant is an initiating priest; an expounder of mysteries.
6. "Union of Soviet Republics" is inscribed on the red flag of the Bolshevists.
7. The Northern Hemisphere contains much more land than the Southern.
8. Porto Rico means "rich port."
9. A periphery is the bounding line, particularly of a round surface; also external boundary or surface.
10. There are eight planets in the solar system.